3.0. *Performance Bank Guarantee (PBG):*

It is proposed that a performance bank guarantee of Rs. 2.00 crores for each category 'A' Service area, Rs. 20.00 lakhs for each category 'B' service area and Rs. 3.00 lakhs for each category 'C' service area valid for two years from any Scheduled Bank in the prescribed form shall be submitted alongwith the application for each service area.

Internet Users in India

1378. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of internet users in India, State-wise, serviced by National Information Centre (NIC) Network and Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL);

(b) whether Government are aware that the VSNL is unable to provide satisfactory internet services; and

(c) what steps VSNL has initiated to provide satisfactory, quick and efficient internet connectivity in view of the increase of internet users?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) National Information Centre (NIC) is not an internet service provider. The number of internet customers served by VSNL is given in the statement-I. (*See* below).

(b) VSNL is able to provide internet services satisfactorily from all of its nodes. VSNL nodes have adequate capacity for meeting all the requirement of the customers in India.

(c) The steps initiated by VSNL to provide satisfactory, quick and efficient internet connectivity to cope up with the increase of internet users are detailed in Statement-II.

Statement-I

Number of Internet Customers served by VSNL

STATION	*TCP/IP*	*SHELL*	*STUDENT*
Mumbai	*25416*	*4907*	*8789*
Delhi	*19722*	*1572*	*3824*
Chennai	*11608*	*1651*	*2645*
Calcutta	*4880*	*924*	*1033*
Bangalore	*7374*	*1050*	*2255*
Pune	*2401*	*380*	—
TOTAL	*71401*	*10484*	*18546*

Statement-II

Steps initiated by VSNL to provide satisfactory Internet Service

VSNL has initiated the following measures:—

(i) Operation Flood

VSNL is upgrading access capacity to improve telephone lines to customer ratio from 1 : 15 to 1 : 10.

(ii) High Capacity Clustered Server

VSNL has deployed high capacity clustered SUN Servers at Mumbai, Delhi and Bangalore. VSNL Internet setup is modular and scale up to meet the growing customer base.

(iii) Remote Access Server

VSNL is in the process of deploying high density and high capacity RAS to cater the growing access demand.

(iv) International capacity

VSNL is having more than 68 Mbps capacity to various carriers for international capacity.

Modernisation and Expansion of M.T.N.L.

1379. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether M.T.N.L. has been concentrating on accelerating the pace of modernisation and expansion;